



CITY OF WHEATON

NEWSLETTER

September 2020

CITY NOTES

City's Online Service Request Form Makes Requesting Assistance Easy

The City's Online Service Request Form, available at www.wheaton.il.us/servicerequest, is a simple way to report issues including a streetlight outage, vandalism/graffiti, overgrown grass in your neighborhood, a pothole or other types of requests. You can also submit an overnight parking request or ask for a Vacation House Watch with the Police Department if you will be out of town. The City will send these service requests to the appropriate department to assist you. Please note: This form should not be used for emergency situations. Please call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

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September is Your Last Chance to Complete the 2020 Census

The Census is in the last month of the data collection process, which will end on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Census takers are currently in the process of interviewing households that have yet to respond to the 2020 Census, and responses are still being accepted [online](#), by phone, and by mail through Sept. 30.

Why is it important to fill out the Census?

- Census data determines how federal, state and local funds are distributed. These funds pay for things like education, infrastructure improvements, and public health programs.
- Census numbers



United States®
Census
2020

also reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state receives.

- Boundaries of congressional and state legislature districts are made based on population shifts reported in the Census.

The U.S. Census

response rate for the City of Wheaton is currently at 83.6%. While this is a strong response rate, we want everyone in Wheaton to be counted. If you have already completed your census, please help our community by checking with your neighbors and friends to make sure they, too, are counted.

CONTACT THE CITY

Police/Fire Emergency: 9-1-1
General Information: 630-260-2000
Wheaton City Hall: 303 W. Wesley Street
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Follow Us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for "City of Wheaton."
Send feedback to communications@wheaton.il.us

CITY NOTES

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No Garbage Pickup Sept. 7

Due to the Labor Day holiday, all garbage/recycling/yard waste pickups will be delayed one day during the week of Sept. 7-11.

City Offices Closed

Non-emergency City of Wheaton offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. They will reopen on Sept. 8.

Applications for Vote by Mail Ballots Available for DuPage County

DuPage County voters may now apply for Vote by Mail ballots for the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election. In compliance with new state election law in response to COVID-19, the DuPage County Clerk Election Division has increased the ballot application period by nearly seven weeks. Registered voters are encouraged to securely apply online for Vote by Mail ballots at this link: <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/VoteByMail/>

Illinois Department of Public Health's Travel Map Provides Guidance on Travel Risk

The Illinois Department of Public Health's COVID-19 travel map

helps inform residents of potential risks associated with traveling during the pandemic. The map indicates countries and U.S. states with increased risk of COVID-19 based on case rates.

[View the COVID-19 travel map](#) by visiting the Illinois Department of Public Health's website.

Lawn Watering Restrictions

A few simple water use tips can make a difference in how much water you use outdoors. Water infrequently, but thoroughly, so moisture soaks down to the roots. This creates deeper, healthier root systems that are more water-efficient and drought-tolerant. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.

Lawn watering restrictions are in place from May 15 through September 15.

- If your address ends in an even number, you can only water your lawn on even-numbered days of the calendar, but not between noon and 6 p.m.

- If your address ends in an odd number, you can only water your lawn on odd-numbered days on the calendar, but not between noon and 6 p.m. If you are planting grass seed or laying sod, please contact the City's Water Division at 630- 260-2090 to receive a 10-day variance.

State Updates Face Covering Requirements for Indoor & Outdoor Dining

On Aug. 26, new state requirements for wearing a mask/face covering in restaurants and bars changed to increase safety for restaurant workers and patrons.

Previous to these changes, you were required to wear a mask on the premises of a restaurant/bar except when you are eating or drinking. These new changes also require you to wear a face covering over your mouth and nose during any interaction with wait staff or other employees at restaurants and bars.

Examples of when you will need to wear a mask include when a server/restaurant employee:

- Takes your order

- Delivers food or beverages
- Clears your table, or
- Collects payment or provides any other service at your table.

The new requirements apply to both indoor and outdoor restaurants/bars and other facilities with food service areas, such as indoor recreational facilities and entertainment venues. Please help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our entire community safe – including those who work in restaurants – by remembering to mask up in accordance with these state requirements.

More information is available from the [State of Illinois on the Restore Illinois Plan](#).

Petitions for Candidacy: 2021 Municipal Election

Petitions for candidacy for the 2021 Wheaton municipal election are available in the Office of the City Clerk at Wheaton City Hall, 303 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL. Petitions are for one four-year position for each of the City's four Districts (North, South, East, and West). Candidates shall:

- Be registered voters of the City of Wheaton and candidates must



reside within each specific district boundary within the corporate limits of the city at least one year before the election; and

- File Nonpartisan Primary Petitions for Nomination signed by

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Petitions

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no less than 5% and no more than 8% of the number of persons who voted at the last regular election in each district of registered City of Wheaton voters residing within the corporate limits of each specific district (North, South, East, and West) together with a

Statement of Candidacy, Loyalty Oath (optional), and a receipt indicating the candidate has filed a Statement of Economic Interest with the DuPage County Clerk.

Petitions for nomination are filed with the Wheaton City Clerk, City Hall, 303 West Wesley Street, Second Floor, Wheaton, Illinois. The filing period is Monday, November 16,

2020 through Monday, November 23, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding weekend days and holidays.

A Consolidated Primary election will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 if more than four candidates file for each district position (North, South, East, and West). The Consolidated Election will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021,

with the successful candidates taking office at the latter of either the first regular or special meeting after receipt of the official election results or at the first regular or special meeting in the month following their election.

For further information, please contact the Wheaton City Clerk's office at 630-260-2012.

Wheaton Masks Up to Take COVID-19 Down

The City of Wheaton is asking community members to do their part in slowing the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask/face covering when in public settings where social distancing cannot be maintained. To spread awareness about wearing masks/face coverings in public,

the City has started the "Mask Up Wheaton" initiative, which is integrated into the City's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The City is encouraging community members to take part in promoting the initiative by using the hashtag #MaskUpWheaton while sharing photos of themselves or others wearing masks/face coverings on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram). In addition to using the hashtag, community members



Wheaton residents are encouraged to share photos of themselves or others wearing masks/face coverings.

can also apply a special Facebook profile frame that has the "Mask Up Wheaton" logo to help show support of the initiative.

The City's goal is to remind residents that

one of the simplest things we can do to keep one another safe is to wear a mask when out in the community. So, let's mask up Wheaton, and take COVID-19 down together!



Recycling Extravaganza Set for October 31

The City and Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission are partnering with the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, DuPage County, the Wheaton Lions Club and SCARCE to offer an opportunity for DuPage

County residents to safely dispose of these materials at an upcoming Recycling Extravaganza:

- Syringes
- Working bicycles
- Documents for shredding (limit 4 boxes)
- Mercury thermometers, thermostats and

barometers

- Eye glasses & hearing aids
- Brita filters & pitchers
- Latex & aerosol paint cans (fees apply)

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, in Commuter Lot 9 (Carlton & Liberty Drive;

enter from Carlton) with new safety protocols, including the requirement of face coverings in person and while in a vehicle.

Future updates for this event will be provided leading up to the event on the City's website.

Illinois Secretary of State Announced One-Year Extension of Driver's License Expiration Dates for Seniors Age 75 & Over

New expiration date will be one year from current 2020 expiration date



Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the expiration date for valid driver's licenses held by Illinois drivers who are 75 years of age or older has been extended for a period of one year past the licenses' current 2020 expiration date. As a result, drivers age 75 and older with a 2020 driver's license expiration date do not need to visit a facility to renew their driver's license until shortly before their birthday in 2021. In addition to being 75 of age or older, the driver must have a valid license; drivers who are

suspended or revoked do not qualify for the one-year extension.

Letters are being sent to drivers that qualify for this extension. The letter should be kept with the qualifying driver as further proof of the one-year extension. In addition, driving records on the Secretary of State's computer system have been updated to show the new 2021 expiration dates for qualified drivers, and law enforcement agencies both state and nationwide have been notified of the extended expiration dates.

Police Alerting Residents about Identity Theft Scam

The Wheaton Police Department is alerting residents to be aware of an ongoing identity theft scam related to pandemic unemployment insurance benefits.

Wheaton residents have received unsolicited unemployment insurance debit cards in the mail. This indicates their personal or financial information may have been compromised. The scam is attempting to use the personal identifying information of residents to receive unemployment benefits provided through the federal Pandemic Unemployment



Assistance Program.

Residents who receive this letter and debit card but did not sign up for the unemployment insurance benefit should not activate the card. Rather, they should file a police report with the Wheaton Police Department.

For [more information on reporting incidents and ways to protect your identity](#) visit the City's website.

College of DuPage is Seeking Stories About Life During COVID-19

College of DuPage in partnership with DuPage County is inviting residents to share their personal experiences of living through the COVID-19 pandemic to provide an archive that will be made available for future generations.

Community members are encouraged to submit personal stories

about family life, work, school and relationships, along with photos, drawings, poems, short stories, videos, audio recordings, social media posts and other digital items to the College of DuPage's digital archive.

Residents can [submit an item to the digital archive](#) by visiting the College of DuPage's website.

Make Mental Health a Priority as Students Return to School

This month, many students in Illinois will venture back to the classroom. For some, that classroom looks dramatically different in a COVID-19 environment. The challenges of remote learning, social distancing, and new classroom restrictions can cause emotional stress for both our students and teachers. That's why this month, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and local emergency managers are highlighting various resources to help the public make mental health a priority during these unprecedented times.

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) School Safety Working Group focuses their efforts on providing practical and helpful [recommendations](#) for schools to adopt. These recommendations range from physical school improvements, policy suggestions, increasing mental health services, information sharing and more.

Now, more than ever, our parents



and educators need reliable information to help protect our students. Everybody experiences mental health issues in different ways. Students who are contemplating hurting themselves or others frequently give warning signs of their distress. Some common signs of distress include not acting like they normally do, a loss of interest in things they used to enjoy, talking about feelings of hopelessness, being more reckless, or isolating from family and friends.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recognizes that student well-being extends beyond learning

and nutrition. To that end, the [ISBE website](#) features additional tools that can help provide care for mental/emotional wellbeing of our educators and our students.

The [National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement](#) has several resources specifically related to mental health and coping with pandemic. These resources are specifically tailored for educators, school staff and parents. These videos and presentations have been adopted by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) and the National School Superintendents Association (AASA).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wheaton French Market
Saturdays through November 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.*
Parking Lot at Main & Liberty
**8 a.m. to 9 a.m. is reserved for seniors and those with underlying health conditions.

Please [see safety protocols](#) on the City's website.

Electronic Recycling Monthly Drop-Off
Saturday, September 12
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
820 W. Liberty Drive

Please [see safety protocols](#) on the City's website.

Wheaton Public Library Virtual Events

Register for virtual events at wheatonlibrary.org/calendar.

Voting in the November Election
Wednesday, Sep. 9 at 7 p.m.

Social Inequities & COVID-19
Tuesday, Sep. 15 at 7 p.m.

Latin American Cuisine
Wednesday, Sep. 23 at 7 p.m.

Astronomy Using Your Eyes
Thursday, Sep. 24 at 7 p.m.

Martin Luther King in Chicago
Thursday, Sep. 24 at 7 p.m.

CITY CALENDAR

City Council Meetings and Planning Sessions are held in the Council Chambers at Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St. Visit www.wheaton.il.us for a complete list of meetings and events.

September 2020

- 7 City Offices Closed/No Trash Pickup
- 8 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 City Council Planning Session, 7 p.m.

